

PERMANENT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE MTA
MINUTES OF June 8, 2017

A meeting of the Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA (PCAC) was convened at 12:00 noon on June 8, 2017 in the 20th Floor Board Room, 2 Broadway, New York City.

The following members were present:

Randolph Glucksman	Sharon King Hoge
Andrew Albert	Scott Nicholls
Gerard P. Bringmann	Edith Prentiss
Stuart Goldstein	Raymond Pagano
Christopher Greif	Larry Rubinstein
William K. Guild	Francena Amparo (via phone)
Burton M. Strauss, Jr.	

The following members were absent:

Sheila Carpenter	Richard Cataggio
Francis T. Corcoran	Owen Costello
Mark Epstein	Mike Godino
Orrin Getz	Ira Greenberg
Rhonda Herman	Marisol Halpern
Trudy L. Mason	Bryan Peranzo

In addition, the following persons were present:

William Henderson	-PCAC Executive Director
Ellyn Shannon	-PCAC Associate Director
Angela Bellisio	-PCAC Planning Manager
Bradley Brashears	-PCAC Transportation Planner
Karyl Cafiero	-PCAC Research Associate
Deborah Morrison	-PCAC Administrative Assistant
Richard Schulman	-Concerned citizen
Matt Kymper	-Concerned citizen
Yvonne Morrow	-Concerned citizen
Marsha Desormeaux	-MTA/OIG
Jason A. Pinero	-Concerned citizen

Meeting Videos

[PCAC Minutes Video 6.8.17](#)

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Time Point

Video Part 1

- 00:22 **Approval of Agenda**
The agenda for the June 8, 2017 meeting was approved.
- 00:35 **Approval of Minutes**
The minutes of the March 2, 2017 meeting were approved.
- 00:42 **Introduction of Guest Speakers: M. William Hollister and Clifford Cole – Amtrak Representatives on Penn Station Repair Work and Its Impacts on Train Service.**
- 05:53 Amtrak had a renewal program in place. Long-term plan condensed to July 10 through September 1, 2017. Full replacement of tracks and switches.
- 13:00 Penn Station at capacity in the 1970s with 500 trains. Penn station designed as an inner-city commuter station.
- 15:14 A. Albert: What has contributed to the problems at Penn station? Deferred maintenance, lack of funding, increased users...?
- 15:51 M. Hollister: All the above
- 19:16 Penn station information/updates available at Amtrak.com/nyprenewal.
- 20:37 R. Glucksman: Will Empire service be going into Grand Central Terminal?
- 22:55 M. Hollister: Yes, Grand Central can accommodate some Empire service.
- 23:10 Trains to Canada discussion: Combine two trains to go to Albany and then split into two – one going to Adirondacks the other to Montreal.
- 26:25 R. Glucksman: Is there a plan for staging?
- 26:31 M. Hollister: Yes, there is a sequencing plan.
- 27:50 K. Cafiero: 2019 East River Tunnel closures – will this work impact this?
- 28:10 M. Hollister: Work will continue without service adjustments of impacts to schedules by then. However, in 2018 there might be a small service adjustment, but nowhere near this upcoming service adjustment.
- 29:45 E. Shannon: Has there been any collaboration with NYCT due to their efforts on Sandy related repairs? Are there enough resources, budget allocations?
- 31:35 C. Cole: This work is fully funded. We have the resources but do not have the final budget yet.
- 33:10 M. Hollister: Taskforce created with Tom Prendergast at the head to bring all effected agencies together.
- 33:50 A. Albert: Any plans to provide shuttle bus service between Penn and Grand Central?
- 34:05 M. Hollister: We are looking into that and working with NYCDOT regarding buses. .

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- 36:52 G. Bringmann: What happens with service disruptions and this work?
- 37:30 M. Hollister: Coordinating with other agencies (i.e. LIRR), A lot of communications with emergency management personnel.
- 38:43 W. Guild: The work is just replacing old infrastructure, not changing the track alignments?
- 39:10 M. Hollister: Replacing current infrastructure there could be slight modifications, but mostly just replacement.
- 40:10 L. Rubinstein: Can crews work 24/7, do double the work?
- 40:45 M. Hollister: Yes, that is exactly what they are doing. Double the work, double the crews.
- 43:25 C. Greif: Bus traffic from Grand Central to Albany is too much, buses getting stuck in traffic. Can they go to 125th Street instead? And make sure ADA regulations are in place so these customers are safe.
- 46:33 R. Glucksman: Three trains to Grand Central terminal – what about on the weekends?
- 46:45 M. Hollister: We can accommodate the weekend service.
- 47:51 S. Goldstein: Trains affected – do the trains terminate there or are they through-service?
- 48:02 M. Hollister: Three roundtrip trips will be affected. Boston to Washington D.C. service (Acela) will not be affected.
- 48:58 E. Shannon: ESA – track access, how does this work effect ESA?
- 49:43 M. Hollister: ESA will not be impacted – work is done from a different yard and nothing will be diverted.
- 50:45 M. Hollister: Reads a quote from Amtrak president.
- 54:57 Randy's resolution is read, and Randy makes remarks.
- 1:01:50 **PCAC Chair's Report** (The Chair's Report is attached to minutes.)
- 1:04:15 **LIRRCC Chair's Report** (The Chair's Report is attached to minutes.)
- 1:05:35 **MNRCC Chair's Report** (The Chair's Report is attached to minutes.)
- 1:06:32 **NYCTRC Chair's Report** (The Chair's Report is attached to minutes.)

Old Business

- 1:09:52 E. Prentiss: Nothing is being done about the buses. No communication, signage, information on Bus Time, and service.

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- 1:11:50 A. Albert: Discusses last MTA Board Meeting with Access-A-Ride attendees. There was a big discussion among the board members about this issue. There is a new app coming soon that should better the service.

New Business

- 1:14:35 Elections - The slate of officers as nominated by the Councils:
Andrew Albert: PCAC Chair
Ira Greenberg: 2nd Vice Chair
Randolph Glucksman: 1st Vice Chair
William Guild to continue to serve on the Executive Committee as NYCTRC Chair's representative
Orrin Getz will remain as MNRCC Chair's representative on the Executive Committee
Mark Epstein will remain as LIRRCC representative.
Burton Strauss will remain as NYCTRC representative
- 1:17:25 L. Rubinstein: Motion to accept slate.
- 1:17:26 C. Greif: Seconds motion.
- 1:18:25 ***Adjournment***
The meeting was adjourned at 1:21PM.

Respectfully submitted,

William Henderson